

**Questions for the Record Submitted to  
Ambassador John Bolton by  
Senator Coburn (#1)  
Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government  
Information, and International Security  
Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
June 20, 2006**

**Question:**

According to industry experts I have consulted with, the current Capital Master Plan has tremendous hidden costs that will arise when the plan is executed. Would the State Department consider hiring a qualified construction manager to validate the costs and determine the soundness of the execution of the Capital Master Plan from start to finish?

**Answer:**

The Administration has agreed to support the implementation of the CMP under Strategy IV in New York. We recognize that it is likely a project of this size and complexity will encounter challenges, and are committed to ensuring on-going scrutiny on the project as it progresses, particularly as the procurement and execution strategies move closer to implementation. We intend to use design and construction experts that are members of the USG CMP Task Force for these reviews, but would consider hiring an independent contractor if it becomes apparent that these reviews are insufficient.

**Questions for the Record Submitted to  
Ambassador John Bolton by  
Senator Tom Coburn (#2)  
Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government  
Information, and International Security  
Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
June 20, 2006**

**Question:**

What UN rule or regulation is preventing public access to current and historical procurement data, and what can be done to change it?

**Answer:**

We are unaware of any UN rule or regulation that completely bars access to historical procurement data. The UN considers some contract information proprietary; however, Member States can request information regarding specific contracts. The UN is willing to make documents available to Member States in the offices of the UN Procurement Service and has done so on previous occasions.

**Questions for the Record Submitted to  
Ambassador John Bolton by  
Senator Tom Coburn (#3)  
Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government  
Information, and International Security  
Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
June 20, 2006**

**Question:**

UN auditors describe the current UN procurement scandal as operating within a “culture of impunity” – where criminal behavior is exempt from punishment. In the newly released report from the UN staff union, this charge is expounded upon with a claim that the UN violates its own human-rights standards in its treatment of UN staff. Is the UN above the law, and to whom does the UN answer?

- a. As you know, Iqbal Riza is the former chief of staff to Kofi Annan who shredded up to 10,000 Oil for Food documents that were under investigation in that massive procurement scandal. Did the UN clear Mr. Riza from the charges of obstruction of justice before Kofi Annan appointed him as a top UN diplomat? And what message does this send to the world regarding the rule of law at the UN?
- b. If the new Ethics Office finds a UN procurement official taking a bribe, destroying evidence in the middle of an investigation, or sexually harassing coworkers, does this office have enforcement authority? Given the UN’s culture of impunity, what can the Ethics Office do to bring justice to these situations?

**Answer:**

Although much remains to be done on procurement reform, the UN has taken some steps to determine the nature and extent of the procurement problems through internal and external evaluations. In response to these studies, the UN has already begun to implement improved guidelines and

procedures that we hope will tighten internal controls over the procurement of goods and services.

The UN Secretary-General has issued a detailed report addressing the shortcomings in the procurement process. We will continue to push for comprehensive changes to the procurement system so that it will become more transparent and accountable and meet accepted international standards. A resolution, which passed in the UN General Assembly on July 7, 2006, provided temporary resources to strengthen procurement controls, though more permanent steps need to be taken. We will continue to work with like-minded nations to hold the Secretariat accountable for implementing this improved system.

- a. Mr. Riza retired in 2005. Mr. Riza was not charged in any administrative or criminal matter. The Oil for Food scandal highlighted shameful examples of ethical abuses and undermined public confidence in the UN. We believe the current reform process presents an opportunity to make the UN a more transparent and accountable organization.

- b. The Ethics Office was not intended as, nor has the authority to be an enforcement body, but rather to advise and assist UN staff on matters. The UN Ethics Office will help administer the new financial disclosure forms and program, which will enable it to identify conflicts of interest. In addition, it will help administer ethics training that is intended over time to be mandatory for staff at all levels of the Secretariat. The Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) conducts investigations into possible improprieties and issues any findings in a report to supervisory officials. These officials would then have a more solid basis on which to take appropriate disciplinary action. OIOS's importance to this process is one reason the U.S. is pushing for it to have independent and sufficient funding.